Brought to you by:
ISKULTRIP SCANS
http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net

## chapter.10 Xi Shi* Hotel

*Xi Shi is one of the four renowned beauties of Ancient China.

UNDER-GROUND 01
THIS PLACE IS ACCESSIBLE BY USING MAGIC AS A "KEY"
IT'S RENOWNED TO HOLD THE DOOR TO THE "MAGIC SEALED PALACE"

HERE, STRANGE DEMONS APPEAR...
AND YOU CAN OFTEN COME ACROSS RARE ITEMS

LET'S SEE...
THAT'S WHY FOR TODAY'S JOB

WE WERE SECRETLY...
EXPECTING SOMETHING GOOD?
TOMATO-KUN HAS
SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

YOU SEE...
WE FINISHED OUR MEAL AND WERE WAITING FOR YOU ALL. BUT..
KATARI AND THE OTHERS
THEY'RE LATE
YURIKA
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU GUYS TO COME AS WELL.
I'M GOING TO GO CHECK IT OUT...
OK?
WE'LL GO WITH YOU.
SOME-ONE'S GOT TO STAY HERE
I'LL BE BACK SOON

SINCE HE SAID IT WAS "SOMETHING BOTHERING HIM" I THOUGHT FOR SURE
IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MARIA AND THE OTHERS
SOMETHING THAT BO-THERS YOU AFTER A MEAL...

WHY IS IT MY FAULT?!
IT'S BECAUSE WE WERE LATE THAT WE GOT SEPA-RATED!
YOU TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME AT THE BOOKSTORE, REMEMBER?

I look a mess at how a man would think.
HE PROBABLY NEEDS TO USE THE TOILET OR SOMETHING.
HE'LL BE BACK SOON.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.

BUT...
The books get in cost or plus they're... cheaper!
IF YOU'RE NICE TO THEM, IT WOULD BE HANDY WHEN YOU NEED TO ORDER STUFF!

INTENDED... TO MEET US... HERE
WOULDN'T THAT...MEAN THAT...HE...
THE FACT... THAT HE WAS... CONCERNED... ABOUT THIS PLACE...

HMMM... THAT'S RIGHT.
SOME-THING THAT...
TOMATO-KUN WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT...
WHAT COULD IT BE...
HMM.
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY RECENTLY?
PIMP
TODAY... ON THE WAY TO IT,
A FORTUNE TELLER
TOLD ME, "SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL BEFALL YOU"...

A FORTUNE TELLER TOLD YOU THAT
YOU WILL BE MET WITH UNBELIEVABLE DISASTER...
ON YOUR WAY HERE?
I WAS TOLD TO BUY THIS.
DID THEY TELL YOU ANYTHING ELSE?
YES
WAS HE ALWAYS THE TYPE TO GET WORKED UP OVER FORTUNE TELLING?
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF THAT.
AH GEEZ... THAT'S OBVIOUSLY A TRICK TO GET SALES!
YOU SHOULDN'T GO FALLING FOR STUFF LIKE THIS!

HERE IN D), THERE'S A DOOR THAT YOU CAN SEE BUT YOU CAN'T ENTER!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS I TALKING ABOUT ON OUR WAY HERE?
I CAN'T TELL WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IF YOU USE A PRONOUN LIKE THAT...
it's not like we're a married couple who has been together for a long time you know...
HE TOOK IT ALL IN WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT IT YESTERDAY
"can't enter" you say...?
what do you mean by that?
I haven't seen it myself so-
IT SHOULD BE CLOSE BY
LET'S GO!
I'LL STAY HERE
so we don't miss each other by accident
OK.
WE'LL SEE YOU LATER, THEN.

XI SHI HOTEL
One night: 5000 dollars
Rest (medical treatment included): 3000 Dollars

A TRAVELLER'S HOTEL IN THE MIDDLE OF A LABYRINTH...
IT HAS TO BE THE WORK OF EITHER AN EXTREMELY RECKLESS KIND SOUL OR A GREEDY PIONEER... RIGHT?
IT REALLY IS JUST A NORMAL WALL...
My reflection doesn't appear in the glass.
I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE A BREAK HERE, BUT...
ISN'T THIS JUST A DRAWING?
DAMN...
WE'RE COVERED IN WOUNDS AFTER GETTING BACK FROM RAIDING, TOO...

I DON'T KNOW WHO DID THIS BUT IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF!
DIE!
It pisses me off even more that the prices were so cheap too!
WOW...
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A CRACKER'S WEAKNESS...
Of course, it's because it's "super dream power."
WHAT A FIENDISHLY INGENIOUS YET MALICIOUS PRANK...
THERE'S NO SIGN OF TOMATO-KUN, EITHER
So this is the rumored
SHALL WE GO BACK?
YEAH.
HOW LAME.
LET'S GO BACK TO THE CITY...

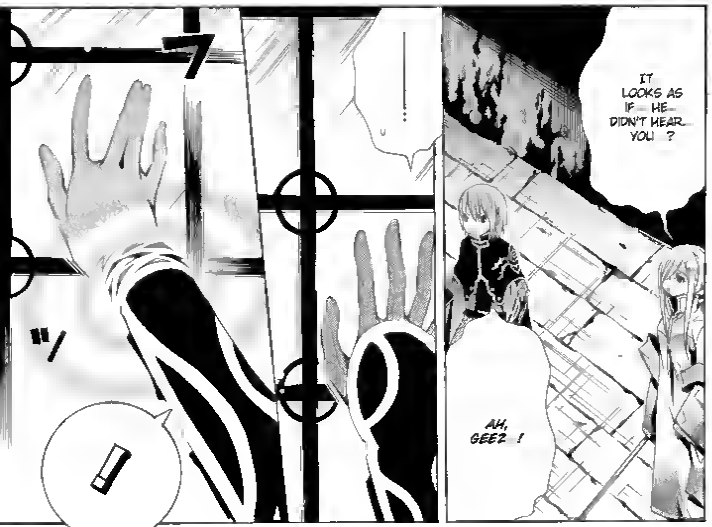
!?
THERE HE IS.

HUH? WHERE...
PIMP, THAT'S A WALL!
YOU'RE GOING TO HIT IT...
!!

HUH...?
WH...?
AH....
PIMP!

RIDI-
CULOUS!
THIS IS
JUST A
WALL—
W—
JUST..
WHAT
THE...
KATARI!
WHOA!

HEY! WE SHOULD HEAD BACK FIRST
AND REGROUP WITH YURIKA!


IT LOOKS AS IF... HE... DIDN'T HEAR YOU!...?
AH, GEEZ...!

SORRY, SAFINIA!
CAN YOU HURRY AND GET YURIKA!?
O...OK!
.....JUST WHAT THE HE—

UGH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT!
You hit my nose!
THAT'S MY LINE, WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
DOING SOMETHING DEXTROUS LIKE MAKING YOUR HAND APPEAR IN MIDAIR...
My heart stopped beating for a moment there!
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT—

HUH?
WHERE'S THE EN-TRANCE?
THIS...
SITUATION...

WE'RE TRAPPED?!
HEY, COME HAVE A LOOK!
IT SEEMS JUST LIKE A NORMAL HOTEL
NORMAL ...
I DON'T THINK THIS SITUATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED NORMAL IN THE FIRST PLACE...
Reception Desk

Hotel Fees
One night
5000
Rest
(medical treatment included)
3000
IT REALLY IS JUST LIKE A NORMAL HOTEL THERE'S JUST NO WAY!
THIS IS D1, AFTER ALL
HEY, IT SAYS, "USING ONLY THE LIVELIEST INGREDIENTS"
I wonder if it's like a cake
WAIT! IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU DON'T GO TOUCHING THINGS. IT MIGHT BE A TRAP
IT IS SOME SORT OF SEALED LABYRINTH...?

WHOA! DON'T THROW IT AT ME!
THE INGRE-DIENT IS STILL ALIVE!
THIS ISN'T EDIBLE AT ALL!
Lick
OUCH...
WH
YOU SURE ARE CARELESS
THAT'S MY——

Welcome, everyone from ZOO. Please enjoy your stay.
"WELCOME"
"EVERY-ONE FROM ZOO"
"PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY"...?

WHY WOULD ANYONE...
THERE'S NO POINT STICKING AROUND HERE ANY LONGER
YURIKA AND THE OTHERS DON'T SEEM TO HAVE COME IN HERE TOO
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
LET'S SEARCH FOR PIMP FIRST.

...HEY.
THIS IS GOING TO SOUND A BIT WEIRD, BUT...
MY CHEST HAS BEEN FEELING ITCHY FOR A WHILE NOW
I WONDER IF ITS GETTING STUFFY BE-CAUSE
I PUT THE BOOK I BOUGHT IN THERE
MYSTERIES OF FISH
Special Edition Ministry and Gender Change

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE PAGES GET SOAKED IN MY SWEAT...
JUST PUT SOME POWDER ON IT AND WHEN YOU WAKE UP IT'LL BE BETTER.
The kind which you use on a baby's bottom
Aie! *mumble*

!

PI, PIMP?
PIMP'S FOOTSTEPS DON'T SOUND LIKE THAT
THEN WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?
It shouldn't sound that strenuous when you're walking with sandals.
THE FACT THAT PIMP WENT
WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING...
IT MIGHT BE TOMATO-KUN, BUT ...
LET'S BE CAUTIOUS.
GOTCHA.

STEP
STEP
I HAVE A GREAT PLAN.
YOU CAN CALL OUT "WHO IS IT?"... IN A FALSETTO!
MAKE HIM LET HIS GUARD DOWN WITH A FEMALE VOICE AND WAIT AND SEE!
HUH?!
A FEMALE VOICE...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M DOING THAT!
YOU HAVE A HIGHER VOICE THAN I DO.
STEP
STEP
TSK.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT, THEN I'LL DO IT!
IF I TRIED, I'D SOUND JUST LIKE A TRANNY, Y'KNOW?
THAT WOULD MAKE THEM EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS!
I DON'T CARE. NO WAY I'M DOING IT!

WHO MIGHT THAT BE?
WHO...
Drink, play
HE SOUNDS JUST LIKE THE FEMALE OWNER OF A BAR!
101 ~ 115
In what kind of labyrinth could a transvestite appear rare? Only! It's just not possible!
SEE, LOOK AT WHAT I TOLD YOU! NOW THEY'RE EVEN MORE WARY OF US!
LIKE I CARE!
!!?

OH?
SORRY ABOUT THAT. I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT...
IT WAS A DEMON OR SOMETHING, GIVEN THE SITUATION.
You had a sinister voice too.

TO THINK THAT YOU GUYS WOULD BE IN HERE, TOO
WE THOUGHT THE SAME THING!
I COULDN'T HELP BUT WANT TO TOUCH IT.
IT WAS DRAWN SO WELL THAT

WE'VE GOT TO FIND PIMP...
THAT MIGHT BE A BIT TROUBLE-SOME

WE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A DRAWING BUT THEN PIMP WENT INTO IT...
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT! HAVE YOU SEEN PIMP?!

NO... I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM
I SEE...

I'M GUESSING
WHEN MOVING ALONE, HE COMPLETELY ERASES HIS PRESENCE
HE'S A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN
OF COURSE
BY THE WAY, KATARI...
WE WON'T MAKE HIM CRY, WE'LL PROPERLY SEARCH FOR HIM.
I never get found by anyone...
HE'S THE TYPE WHO NEVER GETS FOUND AND ENDS UP CRYING ON HIS WAY HOME WHEN PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN YOUR CHEST?
!
CHEST? ...AH! IT'S JUST A BOOK.
I DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP ON HOLDING IT SO I PUT IT IN MY SHIRT
THAT SEEMS JUST LIKE WHAT A SHOPLIFTER WOULD DO
WAIT...
!!?
EHH? YOU GUYS
ARE SCHEMING TO LAUGH AT ME FOR PANICKING, AREN'T YOU?

*In Japanese, the word for pervert = metamorphosis/ transformation as well

...LISTEN UP.
I SPOKE TO YOU BECAUSE I COULDN'T PUT UP WITH THE SNEEZING.
BECAUSE YOU SPOKE TO ME SUDDENLY, MY SNEEZE STOPPED HALFWAY, BETTY.

DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE PRIVATE LIVES OF OTHERS...
YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ME WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING DITCHING THE CLAN FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, RIGHT?
WAS IT
THAT PERSON AGAIN?
I THOUGHT WE HAD AN UNWRITTEN RULE WITHIN OUR CLAN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
!
YOUR FACE TELLS ME YOU'RE CLEARLY THINKING ABOUT *THAT PERSON* AGAIN
How boring
ASKING EVEN THOUGH YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER IS EVEN MORE UNCOUTH
JUST THEN,
YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT TOLD

ON OUR WAY HERE, REMEMBER?
THERE WAS A FORTUNE TELLER
YOUR LOVE FORTUNE
GOT WHAT TOLD?
There was.
OH...
THERE WAS A STRANGE EMPHASIS ON HER BREASTS.
IT WAS ABSURD

I WAS REFERRING TO "FORTUNE TELLING" AND THE "FORTUNE TELLER".
WHOSE BREASTS DID YOU JUST CALL ABSURD?
THOUGH IT MAY LOOK LIKE THIS, IT'S ACTUALLY BEING PUSHED UP WITH ALL HER MIGHT.

IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF ILLUSION OR MAGIC
IT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A MURAL IN A RUSTY PLACE
YOU CAN'T GET INTO THAT HOTEL.

HMM?
THERE'S NOTHING WORSE THAN KNOWING HOW YOUR LOVE WILL TURN OUT.

A HOTEL WITHIN A LABY-RINTH...
HMM...

SO...
ABOUT OUR WORK TODAY...

...WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
SORRY BETTY.
THE FATIGUE MUST BE GETTING TO ME...
IS IT ALRIGHT IF I JUST HEAD BACK HOME TODAY?

# HELP WANTED

The fabulous Kingdom of Iskultrip Scans is in need of more servants fitting to serve le King! We are calling for ***TRANSLATORS***, ***EDITORS***, and ***SCANNERS*** from all walks of life! Due to certain circumstances, those who are experts in their crafts are heeded to apply!

For more information, visit the reception at http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net and inquire NOW!

image from Aethereality.net